

Statement on Counter-Terrorism Initiatives*September 12, 1996*

I have sent to the Congress \$1.097 billion in proposals to strengthen our antiterrorism, counter-terrorism, and security efforts in this country and abroad.

These proposals include fiscal 1996 supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense as well as fiscal 1997 budget amendments to my appropriations requests now pending before the Congress.

On July 29, I met with the bipartisan leadership of the Congress to discuss an appropriate Federal response to the threat of terrorism, adding to the strong antiterrorism initiatives my administration had already taken. This package of budget proposals is the product of an interagency review that I ordered, subsequent to that meeting, in the wake of recent acts of domestic and international terrorism. It is a comprehensive, balanced program to address this urgent requirement, and I urge the Congress to act expeditiously on it.

Over the past year, the danger to U.S. forces and installations from international terrorism has grown. At my direction, the Department of Defense and the intelligence community identified measures to enhance programs to deter and thwart terrorism. My requests for 1996 supplemental appropriations will fund the most urgent of them. These requests total \$353 million for various antiterrorism activities to increase physical security at overseas installations and to improve intelligence capabilities to detect and combat terrorist activity.

We have already begun to address the problems resulting from heightened terrorist activity. Last month, I approved the relocation of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region to lower threat areas. Though the Saudi Arabian government agreed to cover some costs to support this relocation, our forces have had to redirect funds from ongoing operations. Thus, to limit the adverse effects to

the Department of Defense operations and provide sufficient funds for these critical antiterrorism measures, I urge the Congress to act upon these supplemental requests as soon as possible.

The rest of the \$1.097 billion in proposals is comprised of \$728 million in 1997 budget amendments for my antiterrorism, counter-terrorism, and security proposals as well as requests for contingent emergency funding.

It includes \$207 million for the Department of Justice, \$154 million of which would go to the FBI for additional positions and antiterrorism support; \$201 million for the Department of Transportation, \$198 million of which would go to the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase explosives detection devices and perform passenger profiling and screening; and \$147 million for the Department of the Treasury, \$66 million of which would go to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to enhance its ability to respond to terrorist threats and investigate crimes involving explosives, and \$60 million of which would go to the U.S. Customs Service to increase its capacity to screen passengers and detect dangerous materials.

This package of proposals reflects my comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism on three fronts: (1) beyond our borders, to work more closely with our friends and allies; (2) at home, giving law enforcement the most powerful counter-terrorism tools available; and, (3) in our airports, by increasing aviation security.

Congressional spending levels for defense contain substantial increases over my budget request—in particular, for certain procurement and research and development projects that are not contained in the Department of Defense's long-term planning requirements. I believe that we can provide for our military readiness, antiterrorism activities, and for other important national needs in the context of an agreement with the Congress on FY 1997 spending levels.

I strongly urge the Congress to enact this package as quickly as possible.

**Memorandum on Promoting
Excellence and Accountability in
Teaching**

September 12, 1996

Memorandum for the Secretary of Education

Subject: Promoting Excellence and
Accountability in Teaching

Every child needs—and deserves—dedicated, outstanding teachers, who know their subject matter, are effectively trained, and know how to teach to high standards and to make learning come alive for students.

In order to make sure every child has the teachers he or she deserves, as a Nation we must:

- Recruit and retain the most talented people into teaching;
- Require tougher licensing and certification standards for teachers, invest in high-quality preparation and ongoing training to help teachers meet these standards, and increase dramatically the number of teachers who meet the demanding standards set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;
- Remove incompetent teachers quickly, fairly, and at less cost than at present and for those teachers who need such assistance, try to restore their enthusiasm or counsel them out of the profession; and
- Create systems for identifying and rewarding good teachers for achieving outstanding levels of knowledge and skills, especially as reflected in National Board Standards or other standards of quality adopted by States or local school districts.

I hereby direct you to assist States and local communities in meeting these challenges by:

(1) Notifying State and local education officials within 90 days of the date of this memorandum of the Federal resources available to address these challenges; and

(2) Identifying and disseminating within 6 months promising State and local practices responding to each of these challenges.

Please report annually to me on how States and local communities are responding to these challenges.

William J. Clinton

**Remarks at a Democratic Dinner in
Beverly Hills, California**

September 12, 1996

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, Hillary. I'm glad you had a good day. [Laughter]

I want to thank all of you for being here, but let me say a special word of thanks to Ron and to Jan Burkle for opening their home to us. We've made a lot of jokes about it tonight, but this place is a national treasure. And it's a great honor for us to be here. And I'm grateful for their friendship. Thank you, Ron, so much for everything.

Thank you, David Geffen, for telling us the story of your mother, for living the dreams of your parents, and for being not only a great citizen but an honest and true friend—always tells me exactly what you think—[laughter]—always in the spirit of friendship and loyalty to your country. And I thank you so much.

I thank the Hollywood Women's Political Committee for your role in this evening. I want to thank everyone who worked on this event, all the stagehands and everybody else who made Tom Hanks miserable up here. [Laughter] Did you love seeing Tom Hanks? I visualized him, fistfuls of Oscars, miserable up here with nothing happening. [Laughter]

Tom, you have suffered so much tonight it's okay with me if you go and do "Primary Colors" now. [Laughter] As a matter of fact, I'd like to see somebody make some money out of that thing using their own name. [Laughter]

Thank you, Chicago. Thank you, Tom Scott. Thank you, Paula Poundstone. You were especially good tonight. I thank Aaron Neville and his brothers and his band. I thank the Eagles for helping us to live in the present and the past at the same time.

Thank you, Maya, you were magnificent as always. I don't know why anybody would want to take "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" out of the library. I think every child's